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SUBJECT: DECEMBER 12 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: SIX-PARTY TALKS, STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DIALOGUE, TAIWAN-MAINLAND DIPLOMACY IN AFRICA, IMPRISONED UIGHUR-CANADIAN, RESCHEDULED EAST ASIA SUMMIT, ISRAEL-PALESTINE TALKS IN BEIJING, NAGORNO-KARABAKH, DINOSAUR FOSSILS, VISITS

11. Key Points at the December 12 MFA Press Conference were:

-- The Six-Party Talks will resume on December 18 with the Joint Statement of September 19, 2005 forming the basis for negotiations.

-- Trade issues with the United States can be resolved through dialogue and China has worked in "earnest" to follow WTO rules while opening its markets.

-- China has not engaged in "money diplomacy" in persuading Chad to sever ties with Taiwan.

-- Huseyin Celil, a Canadian citizen Muslim Uighur jailed in China, is a terrorist, says the MFA.

-- Premier Wen is deciding whether to attend the rescheduled ASEAN meetings in the Philippines.

-- China will host Israeli-Palestinian talks involving former ministers December 14-17.

-- China supports UN resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh, where a referendum was held supporting regional independence.

-- The President of Kazakhstan and the Foreign Minister of the Slovak Republic will visit China beginning December 19.

Six-Party Talks to Restart December 18

12. MFA Spokesperson Qin Gang announced in the regular December 12 press briefing that the Six-Party Talks will resume December 18 at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing and will include bilateral and multilateral meetings. Qin said that the Joint Statement of September 19, 2005 will provide a basis for the renewed negotiations. Asked how China would define the success of the Talks, Qin said success would depend on the negotiations moving toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the peace

and stability of Northeast Asia.

13. Asked by the Straits Times reporter if China has any constructive suggestions similar to "the aid package" proposed by EAP Assistant Secretary Hill, Qin said only that parties will discuss issues of concern once the Talks resume. Qin also deflected questions on whether or not changes in United States or DPRK positions had led to the resumption of the Talks and on what other working group meetings would be held during the Talks.

U.S.-China Trade Issues and Strategic Dialogue

14. Responding to a reporter's question about criticism in the United States over China's WTO record, Qin said China has worked in earnest over the last five years to implement the WTO agreement and follow the WTO rules while opening its markets. The United States-China relationship is based on broad common interests and any issues that may arise can be resolved through fair and friendly means. Qin stated that the first Strategic Economic Dialogue is an opportunity to increase mutual understanding and promote bilateral trade cooperation, but did not provide a schedule or meeting information when asked by reporters.

China Does Not Engage in "Money Diplomacy" in Africa

15. Responding to a question on reports that China was offering the President of Chad a large amount of money

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in return for Chad's severing of diplomatic relations with Taiwan and recognition of China with the President of Senegal as a mediator, Qin said that China does not engage in "money diplomacy." On the contrary, the "Taiwan authorities" do make use of such practices, which create instability in some countries, he said. Based on the one China principle, equality and mutual benefit, China is ready to develop further cooperation with other nations, said Qin. The visit of Premier Su Tseng-Chang of Taiwan to Gambia from December 13-17 was mentioned in the same question. Qin reiterated China's strong opposition to activities of the "Taiwan authorities" aimed at separating Taiwan from China as well as the hope that relevant countries will abide by the one China principle recognized by the international community.

Imprisoned Uighur is a Chinese Citizen and a Terrorist

16. Qin insisted that Huseyin Celil, a Canadian citizen of the Muslim Uighur ethnic minority currently jailed by China, is a Chinese citizen and a terrorist, who is suspected of involvement in terrorist activities and whose case is under trial in accordance with law, Qin said when asked if Celil would be executed. China hopes Canada can support China's handling of terrorism in accordance with the law.

ASEAN Postponement; India and Japan in Asia

17. Responding to a reporter's question regarding PM Wen Jiabao's plans to attend the postponed ASEAN Summit meeting, Qin said that China understands the necessity of the postponement and will consult with

the relevant parties to discuss whether PM Wen will travel to the Philippines to attend future meetings. Asked to comment on Indian PM Singh's upcoming visit to Japan, Qin said the matter was an internal affair of the two countries. He stressed that China, India and Japan play important roles in the peace and prosperity of Asia. China hopes for expanded dialogue and exchanges to create a new concept of regional stability and development cooperation.

Beijing Hosts Israel-Palestine Talks

¶18. At the invitation of FM Li Zhaoxing, former Palestinian National Authority Minister Abdel Qadir and former Israeli Justice Minister Beilin will travel to Beijing from December 14-17 to meet with FM Li, AFM Zhai Jun and Chinese experts on the Middle East. Replying to reporters' questions, Qin said that China fully supports the peace process and that this may be the first time China has hosted such a meeting.

China supports UNSC Resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh

¶19. China supports resolutions of the United Nations Security Council regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan, Qin said when asked for comment on a referendum backing independence in the region. Qin expressed China's hope that the parties concerned can find a proper solution in accordance with international norms recognized by all, adding that China is willing to make joint efforts with the international community for a peaceful solution.

Chilean Ex-Leader Pinochet's Death

¶10. China has taken note of reports issued by the Chilean government and hopes Chile can maintain social stability, economic development and social

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advancement, said Qin, offering no comment on questions about reports on Pinochet's death.

Chinese Dinosaur Fossils Must Return Home

¶11. Qin expressed China's concern over a recent report that a dinosaur fossil auctioned by a United States company might have originated in China. If the ongoing investigation confirms this report, China will demand the fossil's return in accordance with relevant international conventions.

Visits: Kazakh President, Slovak FM

¶12. At the invitation of President Hu, Kazakh President Nazarbayev will pay a state visit to China from December 19-23. At the invitation of FM Li, Slovak Republic FM Kubis will pay a working visit to China from December 19-21.

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